(iii) Under the Freelancer designer scheme, the contribution of Rs. 5000/- for a project in N.E. States is met by the Government of India whereas in plain areas it is to be contributed by the society concerned.

(iv) An amount of Rs. 5000/- towards transportation and to encourage participation in remote areas is also given by the Government of India.

(v) Under the scheme of Mill Gate Price Scheme the freight reimbursement for different types of yarn has been fixed @ 3%, 1.50% and 8.50% in respect of yarns other than silk/jute, silk and jute yarn respectively for N.E. region.

Handicrafts

For the speedy development of handicrafts in North Eastern region including the State of Assam, recently following steps have been taken:—

(i) 10% of the total outlay of handicrafts sector has been earmarked for North Eastern Region.

(ii) Two common Facility Centres have been sanctioned in the State of Tripura and one at Guwahati (Assam).

(iii) The Regional design and Technical Development Centres have since started functioning at Guwahati (Assam).

(iv) Studies have been assigned to M/s. NEITCO to suggest measures for self employment generation in West Tripura district and in Imphal district.

(v) Preferential treatment is given to the proposals received from the North eastern region and artisans of the region are encouraged to participate in various marketing development programmes organised in different parts of the country.

Purchase of cotton in Warangal market in Andhra Pradesh

3187. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether instructions have been issued to the Cotton Corporation of India to commence purchases of cotton in Warangal market in Andhra Pradesh to help farmers affected by pests; and

(b) if so, the progress made regarding purchases in that area?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) purchases cotton in all the cotton growing States except Maharashtra. Government closely monitors the procurement activities of the CCI to fully protect the interests of farmers, particularly in affected areas. During the current cotton year 1997-98 as on 3.7.1998 the CCI has purchased 48,877 bales of cotton in Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh.

छत्तीसगढ़ में शहतूती रेशम पर जापान के साथ समझौता

3188. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में जापान की मदद से शहतूती रेशम के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने तथा उसके विकास कार्य के लिए किस तारीख को समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किये गये थे;

(ख) इस योजना को किस तिथि से लागू किया गया है;

(ग) क्या इस योजना को 1 अप्रैल, 1988 से लागू किया गया है; और

(घ) इस योजना के लिए वर्ष 1998-99 के लिए प्रस्तावित व्यय राशि का ब्यौरा क्या है?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री काशीराम राणा): (क) मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में जापान की सहायता से शहतूती रेशम के उत्पादन तथा विकासात्मक कार्य को बढ़ाने के लिए करार पर 12 दिसंबर, 1997 को हस्ताक्षर किये गये थे।